

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

PROJECT No. 1686

REPORTED BY A. B. Carlton

Davis, Soils and P. N.
Campus and Division or Department

DATE January 17, 1958

Annual Summary Statement of Progress for year ending Dec. 31, 1957...
This Summary is in addition to, not in place of, more complete reports
of progress prepared periodically and at least once a year with a dead-
line of Feb. 1.

Title: Peat Land Conservation and Peat Dust Abatement

Personnel: Alan B. Carlton and cooperating research and extension staff

Principal results of year: Dust storm observations for three years were compiled. Distribution of dust storms throughout the year was very similar for each of the three years. Measures for controlling early spring erosion should combat northerly winds while measures for the control of late spring and early summer erosion and dust must deal with generally westerly winds. During the three years, two-thirds of all the moderate, severe, and very severe dust storms occurred between May 15 and June 30.

Inter-row planting was accomplished by ten cooperators on a total of 1,856 acres of asparagus. Despite problems concerned with market and weather, 1,141 acres were successful and another 465 acres partially successful. In all successful interplantings, wind erosion and consequent dust were cut down greatly. Much was learned about the proper management of inter-row planting. A variety-time of planting plot gave valuable information about volunteer germination, growth habits, and potential fire hazard of several grain varieties. Attempts to control wind-erosion damage to fresh green asparagus early in the year by means of inter-row planting was inconclusive but showed some promise and brought out some limitations.

An attempt was made to overcome molybdenum toxicity to cattle grazing on organic soil pasture by copper fertilization. Three months after fertilization at high rate, the copper content of the forage was down to normal.

Four Christmas tree varieties reached sufficient height for cutting. Three varieties were wholly unsatisfactory, the fourth, Monterey pine, only partially. All four were judged unsuitable as stock for Christmas tree planting in the organic Delta soils.

The first of a new series of subsidence measurements was begun on Rindge Tract. The purpose is to follow the subsidence of individual crops or cropping systems.

Publications: -- None

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